

# Site Investigation News



January 2002

## **IDEM's site investigation discovers PCB contaminated soil in a hayfield in Greene County**

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) conducted a site investigation and found elevated levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) in the soil at a hayfield, near Solsberry in Greene County.

IDEM was contacted by the property owners, who were concerned about possible hazardous waste buried on their farmland. The Site Investigation Section staff sampled the property and found elevated levels of PCB at approximately 25,000 parts per million (ppm) in the soil. Staff identified the property to be a location, where electrical equipment from the former Westinghouse plant in Bloomington had been scraped. Rather than propose the property be cleaned up through the Superfund Program, IDEM and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) staff approached Viacom, the successor to Westinghouse and convinced the company to take responsibility for the cleanup.

Viacom hired a contractor to conduct a soil sampling and soil removal. U.S. EPA asked IDEM to provide oversight for the site activities. All soil exceeding 45 ppm of PCB was considered to be Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) material. Six truckloads of TSCA material, weighing 170 tons were shipped for disposal to a permitted hazardous materials landfill out of state. Soil with PCB levels between 5ppm and 45 ppm was considered to be special waste. Eight truckloads of special waste, weighing 158 tons were shipped to the Southside Landfill in Indianapolis. Confirmation samples from the bottom of the excavation area indicated all PCB contaminated soil found to be above 1.1 ppm was removed. The excavated area covered approximately ¼ acre and ranged from one to four feet in depth. The excavations were backfilled, and the area was reseeded.

IDEM reviewed and commented on several versions of the responsible party's sampling work plan, remedial action work plan and final report for the remediation. Staff oversaw soil sampling and remedial activities, until the cleanup was completed to IDEM's satisfaction to be protective of human health and the environment.



### **Site Snapshot**

#### IDEM action:

Investigated, sampled and oversaw cleanup of contaminated soil.

#### Location:

Hayfield, near Solberry in Greene County

#### Primary substance of concern:

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB)

#### Environmental threat:

Elevated levels of PCB in the soil posed a threat to the surface water at a nearby stream and to the hay, which is fed to the cattle.

For further information about IDEM's site investigation action at the property, contact staff at the following phone numbers or at IDEM's toll free phone number at (800) 451-6027:

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